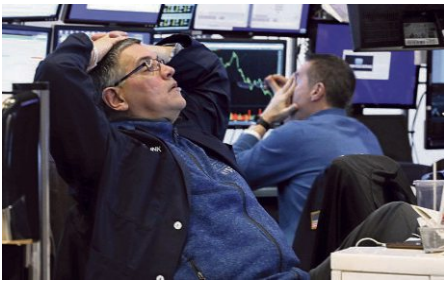


LOCAL & STATE, 2A
Disney World and Universal to close Florida parks through March



BUSINESS, 21A
Virus fears cause worst day on Wall Street since 1987's Black Monday

Miami Herald

THE VIRUS CRISIS

SHUTDOWNS SPREAD



Fabio Wajngarten, right, the press secretary for Brazil's president, poses next to President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence at a dinner at Mar-a-Lago on March 7.

Trump: I'm not worried about meeting infected official

■ President Donald Trump says he's not worried about having met with Brazilian government officials in South Florida after one of them subsequently tested positive for the new coronavirus.

BY NORA GÁMEZ TORRES, ADRIANA BRASILEIRO, AND FRANCESCA CHAMBERS
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Brazil announced Thursday that its president's press secretary — who recently spent four days in South Florida with a delegation headed by President Jair Bolsonaro — had tested positive for the new coronavirus, setting off ripples that reached from South Florida to Washington, D.C.

By day's end Thursday, the mayors of Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami and U.S. Sens. Rick Scott

and Lindsey Graham had announced they would self-quarantine, as well as the Miami Police Department's entire motorcycle patrol unit that escorted Bolsonaro; the medical campus of Miami Dade College said it was shutting down "until further notice" — and questions arose whether President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, who spent time last weekend with Bolsonaro and the press secretary at Mar-a-Lago, should be tested for the virus.

Trump said he wasn't worried about the news from Brazil.

SEE TRUMP, 2A

- **More inside**
- More cases in Broward and Palm Beach, **4A**
- Some S. Fla. elderly suspend care, **4A**
- He knew he was at risk but boarded a flight to Palm Beach. He has virus, **5A**
- What is canceled or closed, **5A**
- Broadway closes, **6A**
- The sports world is brought to a standstill, **13A**



Carl Juste cjuste@miamiherald.com
Miami-Dade County Youth Fair attractions are disassembled by workers on Thursday on what was supposed to be opening day.

South Florida events canceled and emergencies declared

■ Leaders around Miami-Dade County declared states of emergency Thursday due to the novel coronavirus, which causes COVID-19. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and County Mayor Carlos Gimenez self-quarantined.

BY AARON LEIBOWITZ
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If there was any semblance of normalcy remaining in Miami-Dade County on Thursday morning, it vanished throughout the day as major events were canceled, cities declared emergencies, and high-ranking officials self-quarantined, fearing exposure to the novel coronavirus.

It was a stunning halt of business as usual in a region at the height of its events and tourism season, shaken by the announcement Wednesday of the county's first confirmed positive case of the virus that causes COVID-19 and the World Health Organization's declaration of a global pandemic.

"Ladies and gentlemen, there is going to be a tremendous downsizing of our economy," Miami Commissioner Joe Carollo said

Thursday morning during a commission meeting.

Hours later, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez declared a state of emergency. He also said he was self-isolating after learning an aide to the president of Brazil had tested positive for COVID-19 after attending a reception in Miami with state and local officials, including Suarez.

"If I have any symptoms, I'll certainly get tested, just like anybody else would," Suarez said.

County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, who declared his own countywide state of emergency Wednesday, also self-isolated because he attended the reception with Brazil's president, who was reportedly awaiting test results.

The changing narrative in South Florida reflected a more urgent tone from above. In a dramatic

SEE EVENTS, 2A

Florida lawmakers hug and shake hands despite viral outbreak

■ Even though Florida health officials recommend social distancing, lawmakers have spent hours in the Capitol giving long farewell speeches, sharing hugs, and shaking hands.

BY SAMANTHA J. GROSS
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TALLAHASSEE

In the waning days of the 2020 legislative session, Floridians and state officials are scrambling to get the latest information about the novel coronavirus as the number of cases in Florida mounts by the day.

The governor has crisscrossed the state to make announcements about precautions that residents and visitors should take. State health officials have made recommendations to senior living facilities, schools, local governments, and

even prisons about how to handle the growing threat.

Officials like U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez placed themselves in isolation out of an abundance of caution.

And at a press conference in Miami on Thursday, Gov. Ron DeSantis even urged local officials to "strongly consider limiting or postponing mass gatherings."

But inside the chambers of the Florida House and Senate where hundreds of lawmakers, lobbyists, journalists, and members of the public gather daily, the sense of urgency is hard to find.



SCOTT KEELER Tampa Bay Times
Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, hugs Florida Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, on Thursday.

Lawmakers have spent hours giving long farewell speeches, sharing hugs and handshakes, posing for photos and exchanging gifts. On Thursday, the Senate

did the annual unveiling of the Senate president's portrait, from underneath a velvet cloth. Meanwhile,

SEE LAWMAKERS, 4A

Patients might be contagious for as long as 37 days, study says

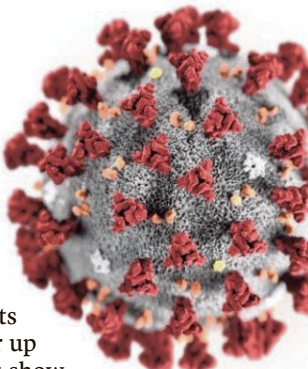
■ Researchers studying the coronavirus say patients can spread the virus for five weeks from contagion. That time period is much longer than the two-week quarantine period that many countries are using.

BY CHARLES DUNCAN
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Some people who get the coronavirus could be contagious for a lot longer than the two-week quarantine period that many countries are using, a new study says.

Researchers looking at cases in China say patients could spread the virus for up to 37 days after they start showing symptoms, according to the study published in the British medical journal The Lancet.

On average, survivors still had the virus in their



SEE VIRUS, 4A